

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

Arlington Meetings: First Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.
 Bob Duncan Community Center, Vandergriff Park
Irving Meetings: Third Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.
 Garden & Arts Center, 906 Senter
Lake Granbury Meetings: 4th Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m.
 Bentwater Activities Center (adjacent to Bentwater Marina)



CHAPTER
MEMBER



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February 2016

Love Stamp at Love Field

By Peter Elias

On January 12, 2016, the US Postal Service issued its first stamp of the year, the "Love" stamp. This year, the first day of issue ceremony took place at the aptly name Dallas Love Field Airport. The airport of course, is NOT named after the act of love, but in honor of Moss L. Love, who was assigned to the US Army 11th Cavalry and died in an airplane crash on Sept. 4, 1913, becoming the 10th fatality in US Army aviation history. The Love Field airport was named by the US Army on October 19, 1917.



The ceremony took place in a public area inside Love Field Airport (between the Southwest Airlines check-in area and the entry to Security Checkpoints).

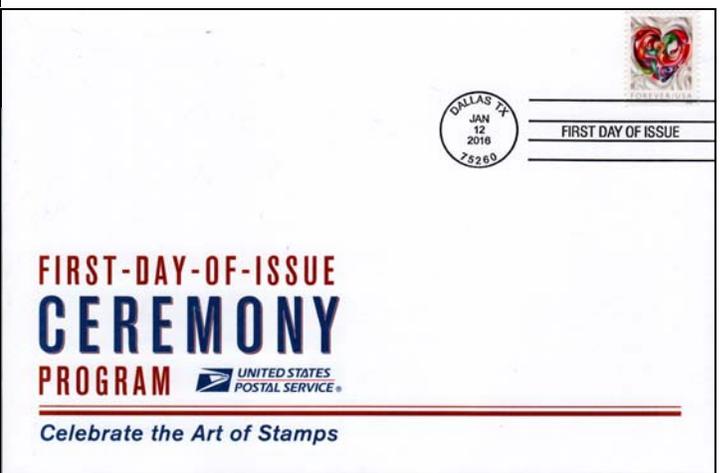
I would estimate that approximately 50 or so people actively attended the ceremony (while in the background, airline passengers probably stopped to listen in for a moment).

Attendees were handed an official "First Day of Issue Ceremony" program, which included an envelope with the Love stamp and an insert explaining the stamp and a list of the dignitaries (this the USPS now sells for \$6.95 on their website).

The stamp shows a heart design made by "quilling", an art form going back several hundred years, whereby strips of paper are curled via a "quill" (originally the base of a feather) and then glued unto a background. The stamp image conveys this, but it is definitely better enjoyed in "3D" to better grasp what this looks like. The USPS had brought along the actual item that was used for the basis of the stamp. I took a photo of it slightly off to one side in order to better appreciate this artwork than looking at it straight on.



I saw a couple of philatelists present at the ceremony (such as Tom Koch, Norman Cohen and several people from the



Dallas Park Cities Philatelic Society). Norman Cohen gave out some free cachet envelopes to those that wanted to make their own first day covers.



For me, the fun item was getting a "deck card" and putting one of the stamps on it along with a first day cancellation. Deck cards (see bottom left side) are on top of a sealed stack of stamp panes and are discarded after opening by postal clerks. The USPS has started to capitalize on this though and are now offering deck cards either plain (\$0.99) or with the stamp and color first day postmark (\$1.99). But this copy, with the standard black & white First Day of Issue cancel is a one-of-a-kind!

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Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

Peter Elias, Editor (news@mid-citiesstampclub.com)

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2015 - 2016 MID-CITIES OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Mike Smith

First Vice-President – Skip Ely

Second Vice-President – Richard Hildebrandt

Secretary – Benedict Termini

Treasurer – Judy Christmas

Board of Directors (voting):

Alliene Franklin Ralph Poore Ken Wills

Membership in the Mid-Cities Stamp Club is available to anyone of good character interested in philately. Feel free to attend any of our 3 different meeting sites in the greater Dallas / Ft. Worth area. Dues are \$12 per year. For more information, the editor is reachable during business hours at (972) 671-0077 or e-mail us at:

editor@mid-citiesstampclub.com

For a membership application write to:

**Mid-Cities Stamp Club
P.O. Box 2158
Arlington, TX 76004-2158**

or visit: <http://www.mid-citiesstampclub.com>

Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

Just a quick reminder: make sure that your 2016 dues are paid! If unpaid by mid-February, you will be dropped from the membership roster by the Secretary, dropped from the newsletter mailing list, and if you are signed up with the Yahoo group, then your email address will be removed from that list as well.

For members that are not wishing to renew their membership, please let us know of this, so that we don't have to send you reminders.

Dues News You Can Use

By Ben Termini

At its recent meeting, the MCSC Board voted to allow the payment of membership dues for three years at a time. So if you're tired of writing a check every year, you can now pay for three years at once. The yearly dues will be the same (\$12.00 for regular adult membership, \$6.00 for a second adult in the same household, and \$4.00 youth membership) - you just pay three years' worth at once. And the best part is you can continue to be a sponsor member (\$25.00 for one year, \$75.00 for three years).

By the way, I belong to a lot of philatelic organizations and I think the MCSC dues are a bargain.

Members in the News

By Peter Elias

Peter Elias contributed information for articles in "Variable" (the quarterly English/Spanish journal of Ateeme, and also to the MSS Quarterly Bulletin.

Coming Attractions

2016

JAN. 26 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: Clean Out Your Closet

JAN. 29-31 APS Winter Show (Ameristamp EXPO)

Atlanta, GA, Downtown Hilton Atlanta

FEB. 3 MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: Mixture Pick & Bring a Show & Tell item[s]

FEB. 17 MCSC—IRVING Meeting

Program: TBD

FEB. 23 MCSC—LAKE GRANBURY Meeting

Program: *John Hotchner's talk* from the EXPO Awards presented by Stan Christmas

FEB. 26-28 TEXPEX 2016

DFW Hilton Executive Center, Grapevine.

MAR 2. MCSC—ARLINGTON Meeting

Program: Clean Out Your [Philatelic] Closet

MAR. 16 MCSC—IRVING Meeting

Program: TBD

MAR. 19 EXPO Meeting

Pizza Garden Inn, Bedford, TX 11 AM

Errata

The postage table published in the January 2016 issue had wrong data in the "1st Class Parcel" column for the rates effective as of 1/17/16. The rates shown are correct for the "commercial base" prices, not the "retail" prices, which is what this basic table shows. To be correct, there are no changes in for the 1st Class Parcel retail rates between 2015 and 2016.

Secretary's Report

By Benedict Termini



New Members

Deceased

Reinstated

Membership Summary – January 6, 2016

Membership as of December 3, 2015	112
New Members	
Dropped for non-payment of dues	(0)
Resignations	(0)
Deceased	()
Reinstatements	
Membership as of January 6, 2016	112



Internet Stuff

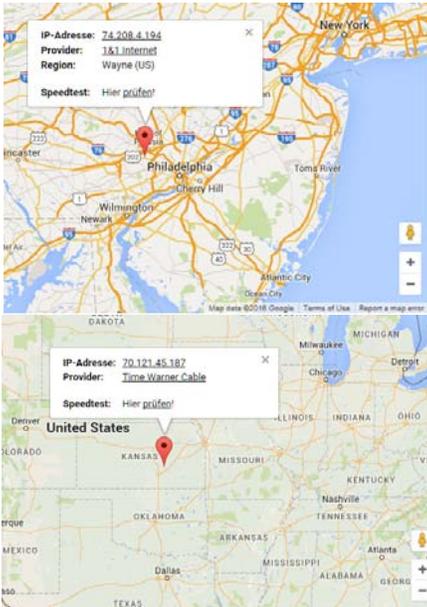
By Peter Elias

Arlington Meeting Minutes

January 6, 2016

By Benedict Termini

Ever wonder where that email message or internet domain really came from, and where that computer sending it is “physically” at? For example, if I send you an email message from peter@pcelias.com, it will be shown in the header as having come from “perfora.net” (I use land1.com as my domain and email hosting company, and their email server is called perfora.net). But where is it? When I cc myself on a message, and later look at it, the header states:



Received: from mout.perfora.net ([74.208.4.194]) by mx.perfora.net

If you look up the IP address 74.208.4.194, it states it came from somewhere in Pennsylvania and the owner is indeed land1, as shown on the map to the left.

If I further trace where the message came from, the message header states:

Received: from D e l l X P S ([70.121.45.187]) by mrelay.perfora.net (mreueus003)

Plugging in the IP Address shows me that 70.121.45.187 is owned

by TimeWarnerCable (which is my ISP) and the server processing this is located in Kansas. The “DellXPS” that is referenced to is the name that I gave to the PC that I use for sending 99% of my email messages (even those that come from info@ or new@mid-citiesstampclub.com).

The lesson here is, as I’ve mentioned before, figure out where the message really came from and which servers it passed through, as that might provide a clue as to whether the message is really from the person that is stated as the name of the sender (since that can be easily forged).

Finally, the above maps and look-ups are what you get when you trace IP addresses at <http://www.utrace.de>. This is a website based out of Germany, and it is one of the better ones as far as telling you where a website, internet server or IP address are REALLY located and who owns them.

The spammers and scammers out there rely on the fact that computer and “device” users simply believe the “name of sender” as it appears and not check further into the guts of the message to figure out where it’s really from before clicking on that link sent by “someone you know”... It’s called social engineering.

Was the above info philatelic? Well, strictly speaking, no. But most stamp collectors are on the internet using email addresses for communication, and many people use accounts at Yahoo, AOL, MSN, etc, that seem to be high on the list of getting compromised. Even if that happens, and you get control back over your email account, the hacker that was in there before took note of your actual name, made a copy of all the email addresses in your address book and uses that information to set up a new email account somewhere else, using your “name” (along with a new email address that they set up) and spamming all the people that were in your address book!

What can you do? 1) Make your password a strong one and 2) run security checks on your system to make sure that a keylogger has not been installed or your PC is otherwise compromised.

The meeting was called to order at 7:30 PM by Club President Mike Smith.

ATTENDANCE: There were 22 members present and 1 guest (Sid Mensinga). Our guest, from Toronto, was introduced and told us about himself and about the stamp club he belonged to in Canada.

OFFICER/COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- ◆ **Secretary** Ben Termini reminded everyone that dues for 2016 could be sent to him or to the club post office box. He presented a brief update on the medical condition of Dorothy and Ed Perez.
- ◆ **Treasurer** Judy Christmas stated that the finances were in good shape.
- ◆ **EXPO Committee chairman** Ralph Poore said that there would be an EXPO committee meeting as well as a regular board meeting on January 23. Outgoing EXPO chairman Stanley Christmas also gave a brief report. He noted that the EXPO had made a profit of over \$2000 this year and pointed out that the change of dates to Friday and Saturday had gone well. The club members gave him a round of applause for his efforts.
- ◆ **Newsletter Editor** Peter Elias said that there were no problems with the newsletter and encouraged members to submit articles. He was given an award from the Christoph Gärtner auction house (in Germany) for the newsletter. He mentioned that the newsletter would be entered in competition at the NY2016 stamp show.
- ◆ **Sales Books** Chairman Skip Ely said that the club had made a profit of \$130 last year and encouraged members to submit more sales books.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ◆ Judy Christmas gave a brief medical update on Herman Dallof.
- ◆ Peter Elias mentioned that there was going to be a First Day of Issue Ceremony this month (January 12) at Love Field Airport in Dallas for this year’s “love” stamp.

SHOW & TELL:

- ◆ Ray Cartier briefly discussed the use of airplanes and blimps in conjunction with ships to carry mail and passed around some interesting covers.
- ◆ Stanly Christmas showed a letter which had taken 297 days for delivery.
- ◆ Peter Elias showed some errors on the Charlie Brown vended postage stamp.
- ◆ Ken Aldridge showed a cover from Hong Kong.
- ◆ Mike Smith showed an unlisted sheetlet from the People’s Republic of China.
- ◆ Alliene Franklin passed around a cover that she had received from Judy Christmas which had been mailed with insufficient postage. Judy promised that she would never do that again.

DOOR PRIZES:

Gift Certificates (\$10) were won by Bobby Mills and Ray Moyer. A \$15 gift certificate was won by Bob Weidman, and a set of Charlie Brown error stamps (donated by Peter Elias) was won by Ray Cartier.

PROGRAM:

Video of the EXPO-2015 awards dinner which included a talk by John Hotchner on exhibiting.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

President's Letter

by Mike Smith

The new year has gotten off to a great start with our January club meetings and a joint EXPO planning and Board meeting already held on January 23rd. We have now picked our theme for the 2016 EXPO. It is "Sci-Fi", in recognition of recent stamps and some to be issued this year that reflect the importance of science fiction in today's culture. You will be hearing more about this year's show from new EXPO General Chairperson, Ralph Poore, in our upcoming meetings and newsletters.

One other item approved at the Board meeting is that the Mid-Cities Stamp Club will now accept dues payments for a three-year period, as well as the single year payments. As we get older, quite a few of us forget if we gave the Secretary cash or payment for our dues at one of the fall meetings, and it would be less trouble to have the club notify us every three years that the dues need to be paid again. Individual adult, youth (under 18), family, sponsor, or additional donation memberships can now all be paid in advance for the next three years.

The APS World Series Show TEXPEX 2016, featuring a theme of the 150th anniversary of Texas' Western Cattle Trails, will be held February 26th to 28th at the Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Conference Center in Grapevine. Once again, Mid-Cities Stamp Club will be the only club with two single-frame exhibits at the TEXPEX "Shootout", so thanks to all our Granbury and Arlington members who provided 1-page exhibits, and best of luck in the competition.

Another item discussed at the January Board meeting was a possible purchase of 60 of the new light-weight polystyrene exhibit frames built by Entech Design for the World Stamp Show NY2016. They would replace our older, heavier aluminum frames that now require quite a bit of maintenance and repair each year. One of the New York show organizers in charge of selling the new frames after the international show will be at TEXPEX, so we hope to get additional information on acquiring some then.

Stamp of the Month: The Renaissance mathematician and astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus was born in the Kingdom of Poland on February 19, 1473. He developed the concept of a heliocentric system in which planets revolve around the sun. His book "On the Revolutions of the Celestial Spheres" was published years later in 1543, the year he died, thus avoiding the following controversy over his ideas. Many countries issued stamps in 1973 commemorating the 500th anniversary of his birth including Poland Scott Nr. 1956-1960, USA Scott Nr. 1488, Columbia Scott Nr. C593, Hungary Scott Nr. 2218, India Scott Nr. 587, Mongolia Scott Nr. 723-726, and Russia Scott Nr. 4060.

Keep on Collecting!

Mike



Club Shirts

Peter Elias

I've got 2 brand-new club polo shirts left, one in white with blue embroidery and one in blue/teal with blue & white embroidery. Both are cotton (organic cotton for the white shirt, pima cotton for the blue one) and both are size M(edium). Polo shirts are always labeled one "size" too small, so a "Medium" polo shirt is equivalent to a "Large" size with other type of shirts. The "shoulder-to-shoulder" length is 19". For those that know me, I wear this exact same size. I had ordered these a while back when they were on sale and am of course selling them at my cost, which is: \$9.95 for the white shirt, \$14.95 for the blue/teal shirt. I'd keep them for myself, but I already have about 10 club shirts that I bought for myself in various colors and styles, so I don't really need any more! Please contact me if interested at 972-671-0077 (during work hours) or via email at editor@mid-citiesstampclub.com.

Minutes of the MCSC Board Meeting January 23, 2016

By Ben Termini

Call-to-Order:

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 PM by President Mike Smith.

Attendance:

Present were Ralph Poore, Skip Ely, Stanley Christmas, Judy Christmas, Bob Weidman, Ray Moyer, Janet Moyer, Ken Wills, Ben Termini, Ken Aldridge, Tom Cunningham, Peter Elias, Rich Hildebrandt, and Mike Smith. One new club member (Robert Stewart) was present as a visitor.

Previous Minutes:

The minutes of the previous board meeting were read and approved.

Reports:

- ◆ The Secretary (Ben Termini) reported that we had collected dues from approximately 75 members and would probably end up with about 100 members for this year.
- ◆ The Treasurer (Judy Christmas) reported that we had adequate funds (Note: members wishing to know exact figures should contact her). The possibility of putting the exact numbers in reports was discussed. A motion to do so was made, but did not pass.
- ◆ Newsletter editor Peter Elias reported that the newsletter had been submitted as an entry in the literature competition at the NY-2016 show.
- ◆ Sales Book Chairman Skip Ely passed out a sales book summary sheet with data for the previous year.

New Business:

- ◆ Club member John Barrett, now living in Gulfport Mississippi, requested the loan of 6 to 8 exhibit frames for use at GulfPex in April, 2016. This was approved.
- ◆ The purchase of new lightweight exhibit frames was discussed briefly. This had been discussed in the EXPO Board meeting immediately preceding this meeting. Stanley Christmas is looking into this.
- ◆ The possibility of allowing members to pay dues in advance was discussed. Ken Wills made a motion, seconded by Ben Termini, to allow members to pay either one or three years' worth of dues at a time. This was approved.
- ◆ The rental contract for meeting space in the Bob Duncan contract was briefly discussed.
- ◆ The possibility of putting **non-personal** information now printed in the MCSC Directory onto the club web site was discussed. This would result in considerably less work and allow more frequent updates. The secretary would continue to provide membership lists to the members on a yearly basis and when requested. Members without email addresses or those who requested paper copies, would receive them by mail. This was approved.
- ◆ Stanley Christmas made a motion to table the purchase of a computer by the club since he did not feel it would be needed. This was approved.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

CLASSIFIED BOURSE

Announcements

All club members that are current with their dues payments are entitled to FREE ads in this space! Please send ad to: Peter Elias, P.O. Box 940427, Plano, TX 75094-0427, give it to me at a meeting, or e-mail me at: peter@pcelias.com

For Sale

3x US Scott Specialized Plate Block Albums (from 1900 - 1993); buy 1 or all 3. Also selling all of my **USA Stamp Collection (8 albums)**. One album or all 8 albums are for sale (very reasonable!). Please call Ken Dillard at (817) 468-8714 if interested. 11/11

US POSTAGE – from our huge surplus: 1c – 20c : 70% of FV; 21c – 50c : 80% of FV. Send any amount (min \$10), specify group (70%, 80%), and receive mix of values back in FV as indicated above. Clean, F/VF only. Plate or Zip block included for every \$10 remitted. Remit (check or MO) to: J. Myers, P. O. Box 2047, Coppell, TX 75019. TX orders, add 8% sales tax. We cover return postage, S/H charges. Can also take PayPal (same terms). jasdmyers@earthlink.net 5/15

MOVED, BUT SALE CONTINUES! Special discounts to MCSC members for Swiss, Austria, Liechtenstein issues, @ 1/3 and LESS of catalog values. Also will accept US postage (any values) @ 50% of catalog. All orders postpaid! I also accept PayPal if you wish! John Barrett, Ph.D. Contact info: jstrubelboy@aol.com 12/14

I have over **10,000 auctions** on delcampe.com @ 35% of Scott or less. Worldwide & US stamps, covers and FDCs. For more info contact Denny Ludlow @ (713) 898-1872 10/15

Wanted to Buy

U.S. Liberty Series precancels. Unsorted, on paper, quantities okay. Contact Gene Atkinson at atkinson@our-town.com. 4/15

Postally used “ATM” stamps (i.e.: machine vended), such as Framas, from around the world; would prefer on cover or postcard if possible. Peter Elias, info@stvincentstamps.com 8/14

Wanted for MCSC Mixture Picks

Good US Material on Paper. We need commemoratives (32¢ to present “Forever” values), Airmails, Semi-Postals and high-value definitive stamps. Please no common stamps such as Christmas, Love and other “special” issues. The club will pay \$20 per pound for needed material and may pro-rate smaller quantities. Contact Bob Weidman at (817) 292-4954.

- NOTE -

Donations of any US on paper are graciously accepted! 1/16

For Sale

USPS Commemorative Yearbooks with stamps at face value of postage. For listing of what years are available and price e-mail Dave at stockdave44@yahoo.com 8/11

Do you collect **used USA Plate Number Coils**? Select what you want from my [extensive](#) inventory at 1/3 of Scott catalog value. They are listed on my website at <http://web2.iadfw.net/wills/> and from there you will find links to other countries too. Also interested in trading. Ken Wills 9/11

Philatelic Reference CD's. The following self-running, philatelic reference CD's, each containing hundreds of scans, are now available:

- [St. Vincent Philatelic Reference Scans \(1,700 items!!\)](#)
- [Usage of British Empire War Tax Issues](#) (exhibit)
- [Airport Philately](#) (800+ scans of Airports on Stamps)
- [4 Rings—The History of Audi \(Great for any car lover!\)](#)
- [St. Vincent Postcards](#) (300+ picture postcards from 1900 to 2007)
- [My Life on Wheels](#) (autobiography via USA personalized postage)
- [Vintage Swiss Postcards](#) (700+ from 1898 to 1959)
- [Swiss Transportation Tickets](#)

Special MCSC Member price is only \$ 4.95 each. Non-member price is \$9.95 (+ \$2.85 domestic or \$6.00 international postage) each. PayPal to peter@pcelias.com are accepted. Peter Elias, PO Box 940427, Plano, TX 75094-0427 4/14

Want to have your own **self-running virtual stamp album on CD, DVD or BluRay disk** with scans of your stamps, exhibits or even digital photos to give to your friends? With just a few simple steps I can create a self-running CD-ROM for PC's or a DVD or BluRay disk for your TV viewing pleasure! Contact me at peter@pcelias.com for more details. 4/11

MOVED, BUT SALE CONTINUES! Special discounts to MCSC members for Swiss, Austria, Liechtenstein issues, @ 1/3 or LESS of catalog value! Will accept US postage (any values) @ 50% of catalog. All orders postpaid! Also accept PayPal if you wish to pay that way! John Barrett, Ph.D. Contact: jstrubelboy@aol.com 12/14

Wanted to Buy

Interesting “stuff”, such as:

- ◆ Worldwide Revenue stamps on document
- ◆ Worldwide ATM stamps, such as those from Frama, Klüssendorf, Epelsa, Mobba Postage Vending machines and other “on-demand” printed postage (but NOT “ATM Booklet stamps”) from around the world.
- ◆ CVP and custom order stamps, such as the “PhotoStamps” from Zazzle, Stamps.com, Endicia, etc.

Contact me at peter@pcelias.com with scans. 4/14

The Big Apple Show for Free

by Peter Elias

Is anyone else from the MCSC going to the “big show” coming up in New York in May (NY2016)? As a stamp collector, this has got to be Mecca. These shows only happen once every 10 years and are bigger than ANY show you will ever have been to at a local (MCSC) or national (Texpex and APS) level.

There’s so much going on, that even if you’re there for the entire 8-day run of the show, I doubt that you can do it all during your visit. With 112 societies having meetings, 4,500 exhibit frames, 50+ postal administrations, 200+ stamp dealers and at one first-day ceremony going on, you’d better have a good itinerary before you get there! And as with most other stamp shows, the entry is free! Of course, getting there (unless you live in and around NYC) won’t exactly be free. Coming from Texas, you’d be faced with airfare, hotels, meals and local transportation.

Luckily, airfare will be free for me, getting a chance to use up Southwest Airlines miles in exchange for a free non-stop flight (thanks to no longer being subject to the Wright Amendment) to LaGuardia. There are several hotels within a reasonable walking distance of the Jacob Javitz Convention Center, but you’d be looking at \$250 to \$350 per night. Staying a bit further away requires more cost for “local transportation” though. I have found a Hampton Inn that’s reasonably priced (free in my case, using points), and that is right on a bus line that takes you to within 2 blocks of the show venue for \$4.50 each way (Uber on the other hand, would cost you \$55 each way, so I’ll probably stick with the bus...). Since breakfasts at Hamptons are free, that leaves only lunch and dinner to pay for, plus the ride to and from the airport.

So, I will have whittled down two major travel expenses down to free. I figure that even on the “cheap”, if paying for a trip like this with cash, it would probably cost well over \$2,200, and unfortunately, that’s just not in my budget. But, by having diligently saved up Southwest and Hilton points for the past ten years, I can bring the cost of being at NY2016 down to a more reasonably cost (roughly \$500), because I’d rather spend my money on stamps than on trip expenses!

At this point, I’m supposed to be scheduled to give two short talks (20-30 minutes) at two societies: “Alternate Postage” at the Meter Stamp Society meeting (May 28) and “West Indies War Tax Stamps” at the British Caribbean Philatelic Study Group meeting (June 1).

In the meantime, I’ll be studying the list of events and meetings at the show and fill up my calendar. Everything you need to know about the show is here at <http://www.ny2016.org>.

And if you can’t make NY2016, you can start saving your miles and points for [Boston 2026](#), (May 23-30)!



Stampworld

By Peter Elias

www.stampworld.com is one of the best websites that you can go to for researching stamps. They bill themselves as the world’s largest on-line stamp catalog, and have over 650,000 stamp shown, 500,000 color pictures.

I find this site useful when trying to match a stamp I have with a Scott number listing. The problem with Scott’s is, that for most countries, they usually only show 1 stamp in a set, and what you have may not quite visually match that one stamp, making it rather frustrating to find it in Scott’s.

USPS Flat-Rate Not Always A Good Deal

By Peter Elias

While the USPS “Flat-Rate Priority Mail” can be a good option, especially in light of its’ various free envelopes and boxes, there are times when it is not such a good deal. Sure, if you’re mailing something extremely heavy, and it fits into one their box sizes, then yes, it can be a good deal.

But I discovered that it always helps to see if it mailing it via the regular priority mail option (based on weight and distance) can be a better deal (you have to provide your own box!). The other day I mailed a first day cover album to someone in Minnesota. Packed up, it weighed around 1½ pounds. It could not fit into a Flat-Rate Priority Mail envelope (\$6.45), it was too large to fit into a “Small Flat-Rate” box (\$6.80) and the “Medium Flat-Rate” box rate (\$13.45) seemed a bit pricey. So I put it into a box I found and the “regular” priority mail rate was \$9.45. \$4 less than the “convenience” of the USPS providing the box, and one still gets the complimentary \$50 of insurance.

Priority Mail rates have increased in price quite a bit (around 10+% in most cases) starting January 17, so it pays to check out your options!

On a side note, the postage rate for “1st Class Mail Parcels” has gone DOWN in the 4 to 8 ounce category if you use the “commercial base” pricing—available via PayPal or eBay shipping services). It now only costs a flat-rate of \$2.60 up to 8 ounces (but \$3.54 up to 8 oz at retail pricing); and a maximum weight of 15.999 ounces can be mailed for \$3.65. (but strangely enough limited to only 13 oz for \$4.54 at retail pricing). Tracking is included (but not insurance) at this rate. So for an item that isn’t necessarily valuable and just requires tracking, consider using “1st Class Mail Parcel”.

The caveat here is that “1st Class Mail” can be a bit slower than Priority Mail, and even though 1st Class Mail is supposed to travel by air over longer distances, I’ve seen 1st Class Mail Parcels go by truck! To wit: last year I mailed a 1st class parcel from here (Plano) to Indianapolis. Since it was tracked, I was able to follow the route based on every time it was tracked at a postal facility. It did NOT go by Air directly to Indianapolis. It went first to Oklahoma City (OK), then St. Louis (MO), then Evansville (IN), then back down to Louisville (KY) and then finally on to Indianapolis. This journey took 9 days (and was obviously not by airplane)! Not exactly a “1st Class” trip as far as I’m concerned. It was a 9x6” envelope, about 3/4” and weighing less than 3 ounces. Go figure.

At Stampworld, unlike the Scott stamp catalogs, every set has all stamps shown in it, making it easy to make a visual identification of the stamp that you have. At that point, you know which year (and specific date usually) the stamp was issued and can thus find it much easier in Scott’s.

Stampworld has its own numbering system, but it is not Scott’s (due to copyright laws). Additionally, if that stamp is for sale by someone, you can buy it via the buy button, or, if you want to put it on your want list.

It is free to sign up at Stampworld in order to search for stamps and create your own personal online catalog, however, the ability to sell does come with a subscription cost. The site also has links to stamp shows, philatelic organizations, postal services, it’s own forums and more.

Been There - Done That (Recoleta Cemetery)

By Pat & Robert Weidman

In 1994, Pat and I took a trip to South America. We started out in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, went to see the Iguazu Falls on the border of Brazil and Argentina, took a side trip into Paraguay, and ended our trip in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The hotel that we were staying at in Buenos Aires was not very far from the Recoleta Cemetery, so we walked up there looking for the grave of Eva Peron. She was the second wife of Juan Peron, who was president of Argentina from 1946 to 1955 and again from 1973 to 1974.

Maria Eva Duarte was born on May 7, 1919 in Los Toldos, near Buenos Aires. At the age of fifteen she went to Buenos Aires and became a successful radio actress. There she met Juan Peron in 1944. In 1945 she married Peron who was twenty-four years older than her. In 1946, Peron was elected President of Argentina.

Mrs. Peron became the government contact with the unions. In 1948 she set up the women's branch of the Justicialist Party which was the political party of her husband. She became extremely popular with the people of Argentina.

In 1951 she ran for the office of Vice President of Argentina. However, her candidacy was blocked by Argentine military leaders because they feared she may one day become President. On July 26, 1952, at the age of 33, Eva Peron died from cancer. Because of her humanitarian work on behalf of the Argentine people, many petitioned the Catholic Church to declare her a saint.

A mausoleum to house her remains was planned for Buenos Aires. Doctor Pedro Ara, an anatomy professor turned embalmer, was put in charge of embalming her body. Dr. Ara was said to have worked on the mummification of Lenin's body

in Russia. Doctor Ara's process, known as "Spanish Mummification" used preserving solutions through the entire circulatory system, all the way to the capillaries. Some parts of the body were filled with wax, and

a layer of hard wax covered the whole body.

The grandiose plans to honor Eva Peron never came to fruition. Her husband's government was ousted in a coup. Juan Peron escaped to Uruguay and eventually settled in Spain. Eva's remains disappeared and for years no one knew what had become of them. It turns out her body was secretly spirited out of Argentina to a cemetery in Milan, Italy, where it remained until 1974.

In 1973, Juan Peron returned to Argentina. He again was elected President and his third wife, Maria Estela Martinez de Peron was elected Vice President. She ascended to the presidency less than a year later after his death at the age of 79.

On November 17, 1974, a charter flight from Madrid, Spain, carried Eva Peron's body back to Argentina, twenty-two years after her death. It is said that her body looked like it did the day she died. She was finally laid to rest in the Duarte family vault in the Recoleta Cemetery in Buenos Aires.

In the enclosed pictures, Pat is standing in front the Duarte family vault where Eva Peron is buried. The other picture shows some of the ornate vaults in the cemetery. It



seems that even the dead are trying to outdo their neighbors. The two stamps are Scott #599 and Scott #608, part of a set issued on August 26, 1952, one month after her death.

Irving Meeting Minutes January 20, 2015

By Skip Ely

Call-to-Order: The meeting was called to order by President Mike Smith at 7:25 PM at the Garden & Arts Center in Irving.

Attendance: There were 9 members present.

Officer Reports:

- ◆ Secretary – Skip Ely said that Ben Termini had reported at the January 6 Arlington meeting that so far there were only 60 dues paying members for 2016. Mike Smith added that eight additional members paid their dues at the meeting to bring our total to 68.
- ◆ Treasurer – Mike said our treasury was in good shape.

Committee Reports:

- ◆ Sales – Skip Ely reported that sales last year were very good, and that a small excess was obtained. He said he didn't expect to do as well this year due to anticipated fewer books (due to Jerry Potter's passing) and the increased postage for mailing the APS books back.
- ◆ Web Site – Jim Myers said the website was up to date.

Announcements:

- ◆ Board Meeting Saturday – Mike Smith mentioned the board meeting scheduled for Saturday at the Pizza Garden in Bedford.

Show & Tell:

- ◆ Jack Urish had several items to share with the group.
- ◆ Steve Carpenter showed a USPS "Deck Card", which arrives with packages of stamps at the post office.
- ◆ Mike Smith had a stamp with three different languages, and was looking for help in identifying it.
- ◆ Jim Myers showed some U.S. items with postmarks he found interesting.
- ◆ Geoff Owens had a couple of U.S. stamps not often seen.
- ◆ Finally, Skip Ely presented a guide sheet for use in identifying the 1953-60 East German "worker" propaganda definitives.
- ◆ Door Prizes: Gift Certificates were awarded to Keith Parris and Geoff Owens.

Program: The program was the extended Show and Tell.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned around 9:00 PM.



Photo from EXPO 2015: Stan Christmas (right) is showing Ralph Poore (left) how EXPO is run. Ralph will be taking over as the new EXPO Chairperson starting in 2016!

MCSC EXPO Meeting Minutes January 23, 2016

By Ben Termini

Call-to-Order:

The meeting was called to order at 11AM, in the meeting room of the Pizza Garden Inn in Bedford, by EXPO Chairperson Ralph Poore.

Attendance:

Present were Ralph Poore, Skip Ely, Stanley Christmas, Judy Christmas, Bob Weidman, Ray Moyer, Janet Moyer, Ken Wills, Ben Termini, Ken Aldridge, Tom Cunningham, Peter Elias, Rich Hildebrandt, Alliene Franklin, and Mike Smith. One new club member (Robert Stewart) was present as a visitor.

Meeting Minutes:

- ◆ Chairperson Ralph Poore passed out a list of chairpersons and information about the budget for the 2016 show. These were discussed and revisions made as necessary.
- ◆ A discussion was held about the theme for this year's show. Several possibilities were suggested, including Science Fiction, Veteran's Day, Politics, and Halloween. The consensus favored Science Fiction and "Sci-Fi" was chosen as the theme.
- ◆ Ralph Poore brought up the subject of storage for EXPO materials including metal cabinets, signs, and silent auction material. A motion was made to authorize Ralph to contract for climate-controlled storage space, up to a maximum cost of \$1,000 per year. A motion made by Termini, seconded by Wills and approved.
- ◆ Ben Termini brought up the subject of awards for exhibits at the show and it was decided to increase the range of awards from three levels (gold, silver and bronze) to five levels (gold, vermeil, silver, silver-bronze and bronze). A motion made by Stanley Christmas, seconded by Judy Christmas and approved.
- ◆ Peter Elias mentioned the tentative list of judges for the show. Rich Hildebrandt asked if the board wanted to continue with speakers at the awards dinners. Stanley Christmas moved we have a speaker for this year's dinner and pay that person an honorarium of \$100. The motion was seconded by Ray Moyer and approved. Rich also asked how the board felt about having coffee at the dinner and it was decided that there would not be coffee this year.
- ◆ Stanley Christmas moved that the club continue to subsidize lunches for club members working at the show (50% discount) and it was approved. Stanley also suggested that the show open on Saturday at 9:00 AM, and this was approved.
- ◆ Stanley Christmas brought up the possibility of the club buying sixty of the new exhibit frames which would be available after the NY2016 show. He and Mike will follow up on this. It was also mentioned that the old frames could be sold to other clubs and to members.
- ◆ Ken Wills reminded the board that donations for the silent auction would be welcome.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM.

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Wanted to Buy

Wanted to buy or trade for: **Worldwide unusual EFOs, postal counterfeits**, Odd US 20th century auxiliary markings, US 1934 and 1935 Christmas Seals on and off cover and publicity material, Korean War postal history from US and other UN contingents, and any other US philatelic material with an interesting story. John Hotchner, PO Box 1125, Falls Church, VA 22041, or jmhstamp@verizon.net 2 /15

For Sale

PhotoStamps, ZazzleStamps & PictureItPostage in a variety of different designs. For a listing of available designs and to purchase, go to <http://photostamps.webs.com> and use your credit card to purchase them (via PayPal). 12/15

WANTED: For MCSC Mixture Picks

Good U.S. material on paper. We need commemoratives (32¢ to present values, including "forever" material) airmails, semi-postals and high value definitives. Please no Christmas, Love or other "special stamps". Club will pay \$20.00 per pound for needed material. May pro-rate smaller quantities. Contact Jerry Potter at (817) 370-7066, 11/13

MEET & EAT for February & March 2016

by Judy & Stanley Christmas

“Meet and Eats” are before the club meetings. All club members and their guests are welcome. We will gather between 5:00 and 5:30 PM. The group will start ordering at 5:30 PM. Latecomers can order when they arrive or just come by for a visit (check with the restaurant first if it serves buffet style). Meals should be over around 6:45 PM.

Meet and Eat locations will be included the club’s broadcast messages. NOTE: All locations are subject to change.

ARLINGTON

- February 3 **Spring Creek BBQ**
3608 S. Cooper, Arlington (817) 465-0553
[http://www.springcreekbarbeque.com/
arlington.htm](http://www.springcreekbarbeque.com/arlington.htm)
- March 2 **Angelos Steak and Spaghetti**
2590 W Pioneer Parkway, Arlington, TX
(817) 303-7242
<http://www.angelospaghetti.com/>

IRVING

- February 17 **Spring Creek BBQ**
3514 West Airport Freeway (972-313-0987).
- March 16 **Pappy's Seafood**
831 North Beltline (south of 183), Irving
(972) 790-7650).

*Mid-Cities Stamp Club “Stamping Around” Newsletter
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